UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/469
8 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 62 (a)

REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE TWELFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

World Disarmament Campaign

Report of the Secretary-General

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1 - 3	2
II.	BACKGROUND	4 - 7	2
III.	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN 1992 AND THE PROGRAMME OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES	8 - 36	3
	A. Regional activities	8 - 16	3
	B. Information and education activities	17 - 22	5
	C. Training activities	23 - 25	7
	D. Special events	26 - 30	7
	E. Activities of the Department of Public Information	31 - 36	8
IV.	FINANCIAL ASPECTS	37 - 44	9
Annex.	Trust Fund for the World Disarmament Campaign: summary status as at 30 June 1992		11

92-49040 3542j (E) 161092

181092

/...

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 46/37 A of 6 December 1991, on the World Disarmament Campaign, the General Assembly, inter alia, commended the Secretary-General for his efforts to make effective use of the resources available to him in disseminating as widely as possible information on arms limitation and disarmament to elected officials, the media, non-governmental organizations, educational communities and research institutes, and in carrying out an active seminar and conference programme. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-seventh session a report covering both the implementation of the programme of activities of the Campaign by the United Nations system during 1992 and the programme of activities contemplated by the system for 1993.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request. Section II provides the background to the Campaign as well as the framework within which activities are being conceived and carried out following the recent changes in international relations and in the security environment in the world. Section III outlines activities carried out by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information since October 1991. Activities envisaged for 1993 are listed where appropriate. Section IV deals with financial aspects of the programme.

3. The views of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters on the implementation of the Campaign are reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the Advisory Board (A/47/354). Also relevant is the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (A/47/359).

II. BACKGROUND

4. The World Disarmament Campaign, launched by the General Assembly at the opening meeting of its second special session devoted to disarmament, on 7 June 1982, is a United Nations programme to promote global information and education on issues of arms limitation, disarmament and international security. It aims at informing, educating and generating public understanding and support for multilateral action in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. The information programme focuses primarily on five major constituencies, namely, elected representatives, research institutes, educational communities, non-governmental organizations and the media.

5. During the past few years, the changed international environment brought about by the end of the cold war and agreements on major arms reductions by the former Soviet Union and the United States of America have placed disarmament in a significantly different perspective. Rather than being

directed at achieving a balance of power between two military alliances, arms control and disarmament are now seen more and more in the broader context of international peace and security. Moreover, arms limitation and disarmament efforts are being woven into the larger fabric of preventive diplomacy, conflict management and peace-building. In this context, the United Nations is assuming a new role in the field of international security, arms control and disarmament as evidenced in the declaration issued by the Security Council at its Summit Meeting on 31 January 1992 (see S/PV.3046).* While long established agenda items still need to be pursued with energy and pragmatism, new issues such as non-proliferation, confidence-building, transparency, safe storage and disposal of weapons materials, and conversion have attracted prominent consideration.

6. Information and education activities constitute a major component of the work of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. Within the framework of its mandate, the approach and emphasis of the programme reflect and complement those of the work of the Office. Thus, in response to those new developments and in order also to address newly emerging issues and concerns of the international community, the Office has adjusted its information programme to allow for a more pointed approach as regards the role of the United Nations in international peace and security. While the programme's basic objectives remain the same, the Office is making particular efforts to place additional emphasis on issues of non-proliferation, to promote arms control and disarmament in the context of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building, and to encourage various regional measures with a view to strengthening regional peace and security. Within available resources, all efforts are made to carry out the programme on a universal basis.

7. During the reporting period, the activities of the programme have been carried out within four general areas; namely, regional activities, information and education activities, training activities, and special events. In addition, the Department of Public Information, in accordance with its own mandate as well as in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, has continued to implement a number of activities in support of the work of the United Nations in the field of arms control and disarmament.

III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES IN 1992 AND THE PROGRAMME OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES

A. Regional activities

8. In the light of improved international relations, regional and subregional issues have acquired additional urgency and importance in the field of disarmament and security. The pursuit of regional solutions to regional problems is thus being actively encouraged by the international community. To that end, the Office for Disarmament Affairs is seeking to promote regional approaches to disarmament either through the Regional Centres or in cooperation with individual Governments. Regional conferences, meetings and seminars to facilitate exchange of ideas and information between

governmental and non-governmental sectors, and between governmental and other experts, have been organized as a means of finding common ground and delineating areas of possible future negotiation and agreement. In this connection, the agendas of such conferences and meetings have been appropriately adjusted to give particular emphasis to newly emerging issues and concerns of the international community and to the role of the United Nations in addressing them. Particular attention has also been given to the selection of speakers and participants who, on the basis of their expertise and experience, may contribute both to clarifying issues of concern and generating new ideas.

9. During the reporting period, three regional meetings were organized, as described below.

Conference on Disarmament Issues, Hiroshima, Japan, 15-18 June 1992

10. The Conference was organized in cooperation with the Government of Japan and the Prefecture of the City of Hiroshima. Like previous similar conferences held at Kyoto in April 1989 and May 1991, this one was financed entirely from extrabudgetary resources contributed to the United Nations by the Government of Japan.

11. Under the theme "Non-proliferation and confidence-building measures in Asia and the Pacific", the Conference explored further measures for international and regional cooperation aimed at facilitating and enhancing a global response to today's emerging opportunities and challenges in the field of disarmament and security. Some 60 participants, comprising elected representatives and representatives of Governments, non-governmental organizations, educational and research institutes, and the media, mainly from the Asia and the Pacific region, were invited to attend in their personal capacity.

Conference on Disarmament and Security Issues in the Asia-Pacific Region, Shanghai, China, 17-19 August 1992

12. The Conference was organized in cooperation with the Shanghai Institute for International Studies and with the support of the Government of China, which also contributed towards its funding.

13. The Conference focused on the theme "Arms control, disarmament and security issues in the Asia-Pacific region, in the context of the evolving world situation". Within this theme, several sub-items were addressed; namely, review of security and disarmament issues in the Asia and the Pacific region; measures for regional security and arms control in the North-East Asian area; and measures for regional security and arms control in the South-East Asian area. The Conference brought together some 45 high-level government officials and eminent academics in the field from the region for frank and in-depth discussions of these questions.

Seminar on Disarmament and Security in Africa, Cairo, 8-10 September 1991

14. The Seminar was organized in cooperation with the Government of Egypt, through its Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Institute for Diplomatic Studies. The Seminar, the third in a series, was attended by some 50 young diplomats from Egypt and anglophone African countries. Like previous seminars of the same nature, held at Cairo in March 1989 and May 1990, this seminar had the financial support of the Government of Egypt.

15. A number of disarmament and security issues of specific relevance to the African region were highlighted. These included panel discussions on such topics as the challenges and prospects facing Africa within a changed security environment, the role of the Organization of African Unity in preventive diplomacy, conflict prevention and conflict resolution in the African context, prospects for the implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa, conventional disarmament in Africa, and transparency as a confidence-building measure.

16. As for activities in this area in 1993, the Office for Disarmament Affairs intends to organize additional meetings, provided the necessary financial and human resources are made available. Proposals to convene conferences or seminars in 1993 have been made by Austria, Ecuador, Japan and Mali.

B. Information and education activities

17. Information and education activities include the preparation and dissemination of a variety of publications as well as direct interaction with the community of non-governmental organizations, mass media and research and academic institutions. The main publication of the Office, The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, covers the work of the global, multilateral deliberating and negotiating bodies in the field of disarmament and the bilateral negotiations between the Russian Federation and the United States of America. Other publications, including the quarterly review Disarmament, the Disarmament Study Series, Disarmament Topical Papers, the Disarmament Newsletter and Disarmament Facts, deal with a variety of topical issues of particular interest to their readers. These publications are specifically geared to providing factual and objective information for professionals and non-governmental organizations active in the field. The concrete achievements of disarmament negotiations in various forums, as well as newly emerging issues and innovative approaches to international peace and security, have figured prominently in these publications.

18. During the period under review, the Office has issued and distributed the following publications:

(a) The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, vol. 16 (1991);

(b) Disarmament: A Periodic Review by the United Nations (four issues);

(c) Disarmament Study Series (three issues);

(d) Topical Papers (two issues);

(e) Disarmament Newsletter (six issues);

(f) Disarmament Facts (three issues).

19. The Office for Disarmament Affairs will continue, in the forthcoming months and in 1993, to publish and disseminate the publications listed above. This will include, in addition to recurrent publications, Disarmament Study Series No. 25, on charting potential uses of resources allocated to military activities for civilian endeavours to protect the environment; and Topical Papers containing material presented at the meetings organized by the Office in 1992 at Kathmandu, Hiroshima, Shanghai and Cairo.

20. In order to give publicity to and generate support for the goals of the draft convention banning chemical weapons and its universal application, the Office for Disarmament Affairs has been engaged in the production of a 60-minute television documentary on the subject of chemical weapons and warfare. The production is undertaken by the Japanese television corporation, NHK Creative, with technical advice provided by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat. It is financed from contributions by the Governments of Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden. The documentary is now in its final stage of production and is expected to be released by the end of the year.

21. In addition, the Office for Disarmament Affairs has been engaged in a joint project with the International Association of University Presidents to develop an education programme on arms limitation, disarmament and security for colleges and universities. The project aims at expanding the teaching of specialized courses on arms control at the university level worldwide. The project comprises three phases, namely, to identify existing interdisciplinary courses treating arms control issues; to develop prototype courses to be tried out at a number of selected universities; and, after appropriate evaluation and revision, to introduce these courses to other universities. The first phase of the project has been completed and prototype courses are currently being developed.

22. The Office for Disarmament Affairs has continued to carry out speaking engagements for groups visiting the United Nations in both New York and Geneva. Some of those groups included members of parliament and elected representatives from Member States, religious groups, university, college and secondary-level students, educators and representatives of national and international non-governmental organizations. Efforts have also been made by the staff of the Office to continue attending and participating in events organized by the non-governmental organizations and to be available for lectures at various universities.

C. Training activities

23. Training is provided to young diplomats within the framework of the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme. The programme, established by the General Assembly to promote expertise in disarmament, involves some 25 fellows largely from developing countries and normally lasts four months. It comprises a series of lectures and attendance at meetings of the Conference on Disarmament and the First Committee of the General Assembly, as well as visits to various host countries. The whole programme is being reviewed with a view to increasing its usefulness and cost-effectiveness. One change already introduced this year has allowed for a small increase in the number of fellows, from 25 to 30, without a commensurate increase in cost. The changes also involve gearing the programme of lectures to concentrate on regional approaches to disarmament, non-proliferation issues, confidence-building and conflict-prevention. Further information on the activities of this programme is provided in the relevant report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at the current session.

24. Training is also provided to graduate students through the internship programme of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. This activity is organized in cooperation with the United Nations ad hoc internship programme to introduce graduate students to the work of the United Nations in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. Students are given on-the-job training and the opportunity to follow deliberations of disarmament bodies at Headquarters such as the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Disarmament Commission. During the period under review, the Office provided such training to 10 graduate students from different geographical regions.

25. A similar internship programme is sponsored by the Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, in cooperation with the Information Service at Geneva, allowing graduate students to familiarize themselves with the activities of the Conference on Disarmament.

D. Special events

26. Disarmament Week (24-30 October) was commemorated in 1991, as in past years, with events at both Headquarters and the United Nations Office at Geneva. In New York, Disarmament Week was observed by the First Committee of the General Assembly at its 21st meeting on 29 October. During the observance ceremony, statements were made by the Chairman of the First Committee, the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General (see A/C.1/46/PV.21).

27. On 31 October, the Disarmament Week Non-Governmental Organization Forum was held at Headquarters. It was organized by the Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Disarmament and co-sponsored by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Department of Public Information. The Forum, entitled "Promoting transparency in international transfers of conventional

arms", consisted of a panel discussion on the United Nations study on the same subject.

28. The Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs organized, during Disarmament Week, an annual exhibition of disarmament activities, international legal instruments relating to disarmament and United Nations publications on disarmament, which was held in the visitors' area at the Palais des Nations. The Geneva Branch also participated in a special seminar organized by the Special Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Disarmament (Geneva) on arms and disarmament: views from the South, on 24 and 25 October at the Palais des Nations.

29. Similar events and activities are envisaged for Disarmament Week 1992.

30. During Disarmament Week, many United Nations information centres issued special backgrounders for radio, television and press services, organized exhibits, and cooperated with local non-governmental organizations in planning and organizing special observances.

E. Activities of the Department of Public Information

31. During the reporting period, the Department of Public Information continued to publicize United Nations activities in the field of arms limitation and disarmament in printed form, and through radio, television and interpersonal contacts. In this connection, United Nations radio and television continued to devote coverage to disarmament-related issues and to disseminate their coverage worldwide in different languages. In particular, several special in-depth radio programmes were devoted to disarmament issues, namely, "Disarmament: challenge to humanity"; "Africa: a nuclear-weapon-free zone - transforming a declaration into a legally binding treaty"; "Promoting transparency in international transfers of conventional arms"; "South Africa's accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty"; and "Strengthening the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency". In addition, the monthly radio magazine UN Africa featured a special coverage of the United Nations disarmament fellowship programme. In connection with the 1992 Disarmament Week, the Department is planning to produce a radio documentary on disarmament in the post-cold-war era.

32. In addition, the 35-minute United Nations video documentary on the work of the Special Commission on Iraq, entitled "Hide and seek in Iraq", has been distributed and shown on television networks worldwide. The Department of Public Information, in consultation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, is currently undertaking the production of an updated video documentary on disarmament.

33. Other ongoing information activities of the Department of Public Information relating to disarmament include answering public inquiries and arranging briefings for non-governmental organizations. During the reporting

period, 24 such briefings and speaking engagements were organized for a variety of groups. On 2 April 1992, the Department organized a special briefing for non-governmental organizations on nuclear non-proliferation and the verification system which was attended by some 200 representatives of non-governmental organizations at Headquarters.

34. The activities described above were supplemented by special activities at United Nations Headquarters and at various information centres and services worldwide to mark Disarmament Week.

35. The 1992 Conference for Non-Governmental Organizations of the Department of Public Information, held at Headquarters from 9 to 11 September, had the theme "Regional conflicts: threats to world peace and progress". The Conference examined the causes, dynamics and consequences of regional conflicts, reviewed the central role of the United Nations in disarmament, peacemaking and peace-keeping, and addressed the important role of non-governmental organizations in conflict resolution and humanitarian intercession.

36. In addition, during the reporting period, United Nations information centres and services contributed to the efforts of the Office for Disarmament Affairs by publicizing disarmament issues. This included redisseminating press releases and other printed materials in both official United Nations languages and local languages, and distributing radio and television programmes. Several information centres organized exhibits, seminars and round-table discussions on disarmament. For example, in connection with the 1991 Disarmament Week, the information centres at Brazzaville and Manila held exhibitions of disarmament materials and publications; the United Nations Information Centre at Dhaka organized in cooperation with the United Nations Association of Bangladesh a symposium on disarmament issues; and the United Nations Information Centre at Cairo organized a radio quiz on questions of disarmament.

IV. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

37. Voluntary contributions remain the primary source of financing for the Office's activities to implement the programme. On 29 October 1991, the Secretary-General, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/59 C of 4 December 1990, convened the Ninth United Nations Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign as an opportunity for Member States to provide financial support to the various activities of the United Nations in the field of disarmament.

38. The Conference was attended by 80 delegations, 26 of which made statements. However, despite encouraging political support expressed in the statements, the financial resources of the Campaign remain meagre as total pledges to the Trust Fund continued to decrease.

39. At the Conference, 23 States announced their pledges in convertible and non-convertible currencies. A total of $141,115 was pledged in unspecified contributions to the programme of the World Disarmament Campaign.

40. Pledges were also made to the Regional Centres as follows: $34,569 to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa; $51,687 to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific; and $32,873 to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Some $655,936 were pledged to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, of which the equivalent of $227,609 was in non-convertible currency.

41. In addition to the pledges made at the Pledging Conference, contributions were made by Member States to the Trust Fund up to 30 June 1992 amounting to $120,208 (see also A/CONF.159/2).

42. Arrangements are being made to hold a tenth Pledging Conference, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/37 A. It will be convened by the Secretary-General during Disarmament Week 1992.

43. For the implementation of the July 1991 to June 1992 programme of activities, the Trust Fund was charged $181,962 in convertible currency. The available balance (excluding unpaid pledges) that remained in the Trust Fund as at 30 June 1992 amounted to $234,795 in convertible and $253 in non-convertible currencies (at official rates as at 30 June 1992).

44. Any remaining funds will be used for the implementation of the proposed 1993 programme of activities. Use of non-convertible resources remaining in the Trust Fund will be determined in consultation with donor countries at a later stage.

ANNEX

Trust Fund for the World Disarmament Campaign:
summary status as at 30 June 1992

(United States dollars)

	Convertible	Non-convertible	Total
I. Income			
1982-June 1991			
Pledges by Member States	1 634 192	4 278 954	5 913 146 a/
Contributions by private sources	160 258	-	160 258
Interest income	222 474	250	222 724
Subtotal	2 016 924	4 279 204	6 296 128
July 1991-June 1992			
Pledges by Member States	118 466	142 857	261 323
Contributions by private sources	863	-	863
Interest income	14 698	2 127	16 825
Subtotal	134 027	144 984	279 011
Total income (1982-1992)	2 150 951	4 424 188	6 575 139
II. Expenditure			
1982-June 1991	1 544 941	2 644 468	4 189 409
July 1991-June 1992	174 829	(21 384)	153 445
Total expenditure (1982-1992)	1 719 770	2 623 084	4 342 854
III. Status as at 30 June 1992			
(a) Pledges and contributions			
Total pledges and contributions (1982-1992)	2 150 951	4 424 188	6 575 139
Less: Deposited pledges/contributions	2 100 213	3 281 546	5 381 759
Less: Net loss on exchange on pledges	4 821	1 108 650	1 113 471
Outstanding pledges	45 917	33 992	79 909
(b) Deposited pledges and contributions	2 100 213	3 281 546	5 381 759
Less: Loss on exchange on cash balance	145 648	658 209	803 857
Less: Total expenditure (1982-1992)	1 719 770	2 623 084	4 342 854
Balance excluding unpaid pledges as at 30 June 1992	234 795	253	235 048

a/ Excludes pledges made in 1989 that are to be recorded as income in 1992 and 1993.